

**In the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1-17 (cancelled).

18 (currently amended). A method for treating stress in a patient maintaining or lowering endogenous cortisol levels in a patient following a stressful event, comprising identifying in the patient any one or more of the following: (a) symptoms of stress; (b) complications associated with stress; and (c) indications that the patient person is at risk for stress; and administering to the patient prior to the stressful event an effective amount of cysteamine, or salt thereof, to maintain or decrease cortisol levels in the patient following the stressful event a cysteamine compound.

19 (cancelled).

20 (currently amended). The method of claim 19, wherein said cysteamine salt is cysteamine hydrochloride or cysteamine phosphate.

21 (currently amended). The method of claim 20, wherein said cysteamine, or cysteamine salt, compound is taken orally, parenterally, intravenously, intramuscularly, transdermally, via buccal route, subcutaneously, or via suppository.

22 (currently amended). The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of concurrently administering a therapeutic agent with cysteamine, or salt thereof, the cysteamine compound, wherein the therapeutic agent is a therapy used to treat stress.

23 (original). The method of claim 22, wherein the therapy is selected from the group consisting of counseling; psychotherapy; exercise; meditation; and massage therapy.

24 (currently amended). The method of claim 18, wherein the effective amount of cysteamine, or salt thereof, the cysteamine compound administered to the patient is between about 0.1 to 3,000 mg/kg of body weight or an equivalent molar quantity.

25 (currently amended). The method of claim 24, wherein the effective amount of cysteamine, or salt thereof, the cysteamine compound administered to the patient is between about 1 mg/kg of body weight to 30 mg/kg of body weight of cysteamine, or salt thereof, the cysteamine compound or an equivalent molar quantity.

26 (currently amended). The method of claim 24, wherein the effective amount of cysteamine, or salt thereof, the cysteamine compound administered to the patient is between about 4 mg/kg of body weight to 18 mg/kg of body weight of cysteamine hydrochloride, or an equivalent molar quantity thereof.